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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6337
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0152
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P,
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - G20 FINANCIAL MINISTERIAL AND
AFGHANISTAN

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top items on Tuesday morning included a DPJ plan to ask Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairwoman Fukushima and People's New Party (PNP) Chief Representative Kamei to assume cabinet portfolios in the Hatoyama administration.

¶2. "Challenges Awaiting New Prime Minister" On the conclusion of a G20 financial ministerial in London, the liberal Asahi editorialized (9/8): "The joint statement reflected [the participants'] confidence in successful new international coordination in deterring a recurrence of the Great Depression.... The statement also said, 'We will continue to implement decisively our necessary financial support measures and expansionary, monetary, and fiscal policies.' It is a matter of course [for the members to adopt such policies] in light of the rising unemployment rates in Japan, the U.S., and Europe, as well as the risk of members' economies losing momentum in the absence of additional countermeasures."

¶3. "Curbing Salaries Is Not Enough" The liberal Mainichi asserted in an editorial (9/7): "The thrust of the matter is that [U.S. and British] financial institutions were able to continue making exorbitant profits despite paying excessive salaries and that such profits were generated as a result of a money game, which had nothing to do with ordinary businesses and consumers that play the key role in economic growth.... G20 discussions should be focused on how to make the transition from the [present] financial system in which a management failure might cause the complete collapse of society to a new system that contributes to society."

¶3. "Disarray between EU, NATO over Support for Afghanistan" The liberal Mainichi wrote from Brussels (9/8): "The EU is intensifying its criticism of NATO over its bombing operations in Afghanistan, creating a schism with NATO over how to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. NATO Secretary General Rasmussen, who assumed his post in August, has launched a policy of enhancing coordination with the EU, but it appears he has started off on the wrong foot.... Rivalry between NATO and the EU is increasing because the EU is expanding its overseas missions in the security arena."

